



January 29, 2024

The Honorable Mark Pearson
Chair, House Children and Family Law Committee
State House
Concord, NH 03301

The New Hampshire Library Association (NHLA), which represents library personnel, trustees, and library supporters, is in opposition of House Bill 1308.

NHLA is in opposition of House Bill 1308 because public libraries do not act in loco parentis with regards to library usage. Libraries do not keep comprehensive records regarding use of library materials or services. Requiring libraries to provide access to records related to the use of library services, including materials that have been viewed in electronic form, puts an undue burden on libraries.

Additionally, because public libraries are not privy to custodial information, they have no way of knowing who has legal rights to information about library patrons' and/or their library records and who does not. As such, libraries could unknowingly reveal contact or borrowing information to parents who should not have that information. This represents a safety concern for children and liability concern for libraries and their staff.

Thank you,
Deb Hoadley, NHLA President
Rachel Baker, NHLA Vice-President/Director, Elkins Library- Canterbury
Corinne Chronopoulos, NHLA Secretary/Director, Peterborough Library
Sheryl Bass, NHLA Treasurer/Director, Durham Public Library
Justine Farfara, NHLA Officer/Director, Richards Free Library- Newport
Julia Lanter, NHLA Officer/Assistant Director, Exeter Public Library
Denise van Zanten, NHLA Legislative Chair/Director, Manchester City Library